

Bath & North East Somerset Council Disabled Children' Strategy Action Plan for 2011/2012

BANES Council & the PCT commission Health & Social Care services jointly for children and young people; this Strategy Action Plan provides an overview of the council's long-term objectives for developing integrated services for disabled children and their families. It also sets out 'commissioning intentions' for service delivery, based on *Healthy Lives Brighter Futures*¹, looking at how every disabled child can have the best possible start in life and fulfil their potential and considering what support they and their families need to make this a reality.

Through this Strategy Action Plan, the Disabled Children's Strategy Group aims to ensure that there are appropriate links with other strategies, namely, Children & Mental Health Services, Safeguarding, Parenting/Think Family, Extended Services & Play, and Children & Young People's Plan. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group identifies 8 key areas for developing services for disabled children; these are integrated into the priorities of the Children & Young People's Plan².

The Key areas are as follows:

- Intention to improve integration between health, social care and providers to develop more accessible and efficient delivery of services, based on robust needs analysis and service information reflecting the requirements of disabled children, young people and their families.
- Information-Parent/carers to receive accurate information & advice at the right time in the way they need it, covering the full range of services available.
- Participation-Disabled children and their families routinely involved and supported in making informed decisions about their treatment, care & support and systematically involved in the shaping, planning, commissioning and monitoring of services.
- Early Support, Lead Professional & Key Worker Services.
- Short Break Care will be provided to give disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers. Parents and families will receive a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities.
- Transitions - Disabled young people and their families to be confident that their transition into adulthood is properly planned and supported.
- Outcome Measures-Further develop outcome measures for disabled children and young people.

¹ http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_094397.pdf

² <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/educationandlearning/childrensservices/Pages/Childrens%20Trust.aspx>

- Workforce Development-Staff working with disabled children should have 'core competencies' and relevant specialist skills

Children's Strategy Group which meets six times per year. Membership of the Disabled Children's Strategy Group:-

- Mary Kearney Knowles – Chair- Policy & Strategy Manager, Children's Health & Commissioning
- Chrissie Hardman – Sirona, Clinical Health Lead
- Jenny Theed- Director of Operations, Sirona
- Hester Rogers – Head of Children's Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy services, PAT Centre, RUH
- Nora Ryan – Team Manager – Disabled Children's Team
- Jill Lambert- Head of Speech & Language
- Dee Chaddha – Strategic Planning Officer, Children's Health & Commissioning
- Jocelyn Tagg – Off The Record, Voluntary Sector Representative
- Kate Martin – Consultant Paediatrician
- Nikki Cox – Children's Society
- Mary Jane Middlehurst – Family Information Service
- Isabella Spotswood – Parent Carer Representative
- Annie Carpenter - Parent Carer Representative
- Lorraine Frapwell – Parent Carer Facilitator
- Charlie Moat – Children & Families Group Manager
- Julie Dyer – Head Teacher, Threeways Special School
- Louise Freeland/Aiden Knapp – Clinical Psychologist, Children's Learning Disability Service

More detailed action and progress is available from dee_chaddha@bathnes.gov.uk

1. Intention to improve integration between health, social care and providers to develop more accessible and efficient delivery of services, based on robust needs analysis and service information reflecting the requirements of disabled children, young people and their families.					
Service Development	Action	Milestone	Lead	Timescale	Update
1(a) Strategic Review of how social care and health services are currently being delivered and commissioned for disabled children	Explore opportunities to make more efficient use of resources	Project plan & options paper	Charlie Moat	March 2011	Lean Review examined the arrangements of the Disabled Children's Team- concluded that families value the existing integrated social care provision including safeguarding and having one social worker throughout whole process. Scope for further integration with education and health will continue to be explored.
1(b) Wheelchair Service Review complete	Wheelchair Service work under way for integrated specification with view to commission by April 2011	Service users and professionals report increased levels of satisfaction with services being accessible, responsive and delivered in a timely manner	Dee Chaddha/ Belinda Alexander		Stakeholder Mtg with provider DoH reviewing whether appropriate to proceed AQP for WC, National procurement procedures and tariffs
1(c) Community Equipment Review planned	Review service to ensure most efficient service commissioned	Initial report with needs analysis, identifying gaps	Dee Chaddha	December 2011	Review complete March-Task group set up to implement findings
1(d) Palliative Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifetime Services commissioned to provide specialist medical & psychology services for children with palliative care & complex health needs. Continuing Health Care Nurse Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Palliative Care Pathway being developed for Avon Annual contract for hospices signed off Continuing Health Care- review improvement of Pathway Appointment of Continuing 	Catherine Phillips	April 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Agreed On-going Awaiting detail on national palliative care tariff and implications for services (piloting elsewhere, 2012-

2. Information-Parent/carers to receive accurate information & advice at the right time in the way they need it, covering the full range of services available					
Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
2(a) Family Information Service	<p>Development Worker to provide and signpost specialist information for families with disabled children (0-19) in both special and mainstream schools</p> <p>Maintain contact with parent support groups and specific groups in Children's Centres in B&NES.</p> <p>Network with the relevant statutory and voluntary organisations</p> <p>Keep close links with Play Team</p> <p>Promote Special Needs Link database for use as a planning tool and consultation for families who choose to register.</p>	<p>Parents and carers are able to access jargon free information at different levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link Newsletter • Directory of Services • On line Directory of Services • Information around short breaks 	Mary Jane Middlehurst/ Jackie Fielder	Ongoing Sept 2011	<p>Rainbow Resource portal now online www.rainbowresource.org.uk . Link newsletter 3 times a year sent out in time for holiday planning</p> <p>Information Project to look at a consistent pack of resources to families end report November 2012</p> <p>MJM programme of visits to inclusive play providers through the Summer 2012 (report available)</p> <p>Review of the Link Register in November to redefine its purpose and make</p>

					<p>it more available to families with children and yp in mainstream activities. To make it a more effective planning tool</p> <p>FIS Annual Report available at end November 2012 – huge increase through FIS helpline and MJM of support to families with a disabled child or young person</p>
<p>2(b) Parent Partnership Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 support • Group Work • Training & advice through workshops & Parents Forum 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents & carers can make direct contact with service; professionals can refer with parents' consent. • Provide range of advice & support around SEN, Tribunal Service, informal mediation, school exclusions & non-SEN • Volunteers provide independent advice to parents • Support schools to develop effective policies in working with parents & surgeries in schools • Forms used for consultation and informing local policy and service delivery 	Jackie Fielder/ Chris Jorgensen	ongoing	<p>PPS annual report available for Sept 2011 – 31 Aug 2012 in November 2012</p> <p>Case load maintained at approx 150 and customer satisfaction rates at 98%</p> <p>Parents Forum used for SEN Green paper and ASD outreach re –</p>

					commission. 5 meeting this year for information sharing. Ongoing multi agency networking/training to support professional working with parents and carers to access the service – including School Governors training and SENCO cluster attendance
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3. Participation-Disabled children and their families routinely involved and supported in making informed decisions about their treatment, care & support and systematically involved in the shaping, planning, commissioning and monitoring of services.

Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
3(a) Parent Carers Aiming High(PCAH)	PCAH Coordinator post funded from April 2011 PCAH- DFE Grant supporting parent carer forums until March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carers will be offered support via Care Centre, incorporating other groups for the purpose of planning. Development of the strategic role of PCAH/Participation Protocols to be implemented across all services. Commissioned services required to consult with children, young people and parent carers receiving their services & provided with feedback about 	Dee Chaddha	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going support to PCAH via Carers Centre PCAH Protocols launched & implemented in February 2012, DCSG & stakeholders invited to event. http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pcah_prot

		<p>how their views have influenced service provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden the range of parent carers to include engagement of 'hard to reach' carers 		November 2011	<p>ocol_lf_11.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence monitored via contract management • Parent carer Coordinator role continuing to identify and engage a wider range of parent carers
3(b) Youth Action Group for Access(YAGA)	New Participation Service Commissioned, including support for Youth Action Group for Access(YAGA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities Team to develop closer links with YAGA and facilitate disabled young people to become involved in 'Equality Objectives' and be invited to comment on Equality Impact Assessments carried out in areas that are of interest and relevance to young people • Development of training for staff working with disabled children and young people to promote participation • Young People's Involvement through the Children & Young People's Right's Charter, Participation events 	<p>Dee Chaddha/ Briony Waite</p> <p>Sonia Mainstone Cotton/ Nikki Cox</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled young people participate in Young People's Equality Advisory Group- commenting on Equality Impact Assessment e.g. School meals, bullying and teenage pregnancy • YAGA provided feedback on OTR Advocacy Service & how it could be improved. Opinions of the young people will be taken into consideration when changes to the service are made • Young people from YAGA addressed the

					<p>Children's Trust Board about a project on transport</p>
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- YAGA worked alongside the National organisation, Keyring and provided feedback about how to make their literature more accessible for young people in transition

4. Early Support, Lead Professional & Key Worker Services					
Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
4(a) Early Support Dedicated courses Parental Workshops Developmental Journals	2 specialist posts within Health Visiting to develop & implement Early Support Service	Difficulties identified early & services offered to provide children with the opportunity to reach their full potential	Chrissie Hardman		Current Review of service as national guidance has changed to cover 0-19 from 0-5 yrs. Further information sought from regional co-ordinator, and join meetings in place with commissioning, Early years and LA. Funding from early years only committed until March 2013 for support staff.
4(b) CAF/Lead Professional & Key Worker training	Specifications for services should include integrated pathway 'Team Around the Child'	Six monthly reviews to assess numbers & range of disabilities identified through IAP process and quality and availability of services provided to meet needs Increased numbers of staff being named as lead professional via IAP process	Caroline Dowson		All new specifications in line with Integrated Pathway & Team Around the Child As per the Workforce Reform Group, we have agreed to suspend CAF and LP/TAC

training and offer individualised coaching (as per a number of other authorities) instead as take-up of the training has been poor.

Children with additional needs or disabilities have continued to receive Children's Inclusion Funding at a level appropriate to their needs, as identified through common assessment

Continue to make individual responses in the form of Team Around the Child/Team Around the Family activity for each child with a common assessment.

Numbers of common assessments are

rising each quarter.

5. Short Break Care will be provided to give disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers. Parents and families will receive a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities

Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
5(a) Short Breaks for disabled Children	Commission a range of short breaks-including jointly commissioned inclusive services with Play & Development	Availability of a range and choice of short break care in targeted & universal settings for all disabled children including those that are 'hard to reach' and those with complex & challenging needs	Kay Sibley/ Mary Kearney Knowles	Ongoing	Range and choice of short breaks available to disabled children.
		Short breaks will contribute to severely disabled children & young people's personal and social development and reduce their social isolation.	Kay Sibley	October 2011	Clear targets set out in contracts and meetings with providers to ensure that all provisions working to these goals
		Short Break Statement		October 2011	Short break statement published Oct '11

6. Transitions - Disabled young people and their families to be confident that their transition into adulthood is properly planned and supported

Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
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6(a) Transitions	Develop database to inform commission in housing, Emergency Duty Team, positive activities, health needs etc.	Implementation of Transitions Protocols ensuring that professionals, parents, carers and young people are clear about guidance on how to manage the process	Trina Shane Mary Jane Middlehurst	Ongoing	Special Needs Link forms need reviewing for use as a planning tool across some parts of the service
6(b) Transitions Champion	Transitions Champion appointed	Disabled young adults to gain independence, choice and control over the assistance they need and achieve their potential	Julie Knight		Transitions Project Officer appointed 2011-SEND Agenda-embedding Person Centred Approaches in Transition Process for SEN young people age 14upwards.
6(c) Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) reviews at years 5 or 6		ASD Transitions programme to ensure children identified with additional needs have improved transition to secondary school	Emma Cooper		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of staff attends all annual reviews • Transitions package for every young person with ASD in year 6 (offered 3-6 sessions) • Follow up to secondary school
6(d) Health		Transitions planning to start early ensuring that appropriate services in adult care are available	Chrissie Hardman		Julie Knight now working with Sirona to smooth the pathway between children's and adults health/social care and explore better systems for families within the Sirona services. Working towards one form which can expand or shrink according to need using principles of CAF.

7. Outcome Measures-Further develop outcome measures for disabled children and young people					
Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
(a) Review Options		<p>Continued improvement for NI54.</p> <p>Annual reporting on measures to include Learning Difficulties & Disabilities in Education, Employment & Training and Special Education Needs progress measures</p> <p>Further development of data gathering & analysis to inform service planning</p> <p>DCSG to identify gaps in information across services to improve data on disabled children in the area</p>	Liz Price		<p>National Indicator for Parental Satisfaction (NI54) no longer in place.</p> <p>Across the agencies different methods are being used to measure outcomes for disabled children and their families. Whilst some information is shared, this not all collated or used to identify common themes and facilitate effective planning. DCSG committed to look at how data can be shared more effectively and used as planning tool in 2012-15 Strategy.</p>

8. Workforce Development-Staff working with disabled children should have 'core competencies' and relevant specialist skills					
Service Development	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescale	Update
8(a)Ensure that we have an appropriately trained workforce	<p>Commissioning 'Person Centred' as part of the Transition Support Strategy</p> <p>Core Competency Training</p> <p>Aiming High Workforce Development Training</p>	<p>Active involvement with CWDC to ensure that 'Common Core' skills are developed including Disability Equalities Training.</p> <p>Develop skills database</p> <p>Specify services ensure that staff are appropriately trained</p> <p>Develop Transitions Training</p>	<p>Mary Kearney Knowles</p> <p>Chrissie Hardman</p>		<p>On-going delivery of Common Core for all new staff across the workforce with a specific focus on equalities.</p> <p>Skills database exists for multi-agency training around common core, safeguarding & integrated working</p> <p>Aiming High Workforce Development Training Programme delivered</p> <p>Person-Centred Training being embedded</p> <p>Health staff need to be encouraged to attend Common induction; Sirona already contribute and are committed</p>

					to co -deliver the programme. Training for Early Support continues as requested S< continue to offer quality training within educational establishments
8(b) Total Communication Strategy/Speech & Language Strategy	Integrated Solutions-commit resources	'Communication Passports' to be developed to ensure awareness of disabled children's communication needs and consistent approach Staff should have the skills to communicate with young people using a variety of methods Speech & Language Strategy to include Bercow recommendations ³	Charlie Moat Dee Chaddha	September 2011	S & L aware of all non-verbal children. All SENCOs provided with information and advice about Communication Passports and options for supporting non-verbal children. Service specified in line with Bercow Recommendations

The strategy and the tasks required to meet set targets will be prioritised, implemented and monitored by the multi-agency Disabled

³ <http://www.afasicengland.org.uk/download/56/>